

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 and 35-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,797,875 to Silver ("Silver"). The action also rejects the claim based on a provisional, nonstatutory double patenting rejection based on claims in a co-pending application owned by the same assignee (Medela Holding AG) as the present application. Applicants will address the provisional rejection after the present claims are found to be in condition for allowance.

To clarify the claims, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 35. No material changes were made; the scope of the claims and number of elements within the claims were not altered. Claims 1 and 35 were solely edited for clarity, and better readability, but not to avoid any prior art, as the remarks below will make evident.

Independent Claim 1 includes an upper well and a lower well, wherein the lower well has a sidewall diameter that is less than the sidewall diameter of the upper well, similarly as in Claim 35. The Silver reference does not teach a female component with two wells. Moreover, the Silver reference does not teach an upper well having a different diameter than a lower well. As Figs. 2 and 9 of Silver clearly show, well 52 of Silver is a single smooth internal sidewall from top to bottom.

Claims 1 and 35 also describe a rim portion, which is a shoulder between the upper and lower wells. Silver does not teach a rim portion between an upper and lower well, because there are not two such wells in Silver. Furthermore, Claims 1 and 35 teach an opening in the rim portion. This opening serves to connect the well with ambient air if not closed. Silver does not teach an opening in the rim portion.

Silver's connector also cannot be made to somehow define two wells in the manner that the Examiner seems to have done. As seen in Figs. 22 *et seq.* in Silver, "stop" 88 is just that -- a stop; it rests against the top of the single well in Silver. It is

element 86 of Silver that engages the sidewall interior. The edges of stop 88 engage nothing. This structure in Silver cannot be transmuted into what it is not.

Other statements in the Examiner's Office Action continuing from page 3 over to page 4, make it apparent that the Examiner has fundamentally misunderstood the disclosure of Silver. For another instance, the "stopper 70" that the Examiner refers to in Silver is actually a rotary element that fits around part of the adapter (see Fig. 19 of Silver). The internal structure of the adapter that it cooperates with (see Figs. 20 and 21) are not in the well structure 52, but outside of it. So the channels that the Examiner seems to see in Silver are nothing like the structure called out in the instant invention, that is in the claimed double-well arrangement.

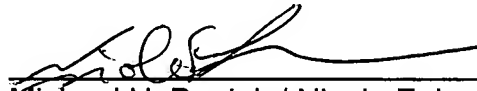
Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone discussion on August 21, 2007 regarding this application. As explained to the Examiner, the claims describe an adapter with male and female components that precisely match breast shields to their corresponding pumps. (Specification, p. 2, lines 23-25.) The reason for this is to prevent the insertion of mismatched male components within the female components (*Id.*), thereby preventing the use of equipment not adapted for use with these pumps. The female component as described in Claims 1 and 35, with two wells having different diameters and a rim between the wells, is a structure that ensures that only a properly designed male component may be inserted. Insertion of a properly configured male component assures the airtight seal, including closing off of the axial channel in the rim (which would otherwise communicate with ambient air, as noted above).

Because Silver does not meet each and every limitation of independent Claims 1 and 35, it cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention. Moreover, and while no such rejection under Section 103 has been made, there is nothing in Silver in the way

of structure that would render the present invention obvious. Silver's structure is very different. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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